UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Copy to:

Report of: JAMES F. MORRISSEY
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Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R

Synopsis:

Interview set forth of JOHN E. DONOVAN, former section commander of subject when both in MACS-9, USMC, March, 1959, to September, 1959. OSWALD described as wise guy, trouble maker, officer-baiter, revolter against authority, felt he was one of few actually aware of world affairs. Attitude, however, never resulted in any official administrative action against him according to DONOVAN. OSWALD dependable on assignments, remained to himself during slack periods reading and studying. Fellow officer who knew subject reported to DONOVAN that subject was out of his mind, a nut on politics. Stewardess who dated OSWALD told DONOVAN subject real nut. OSWALD's assignment with MACS-9 gave him access to secret radio frequencies, call signs and codes which were compromised and changed at time of his defection. Other military knowledge available to OSWALD in same position set forth. Interview of Mrs. SYLVIA HOKE, sister of RUTH PAINE, set forth. PAINE visited HOKE around last Labor Day, indicated her plan to pick up subject's wife, MARINA, in New Orleans; told HOKE that MARINA wanted to leave subject since he was not supporting the family. Subject described as "jerk."

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DETAILS: AT WASHINGTON, D.C.

Interview of JOHN E. DONOVAN, Former U.S. Marine Corps Section Commander of LEE HARVEY OSWALD During the Period March, 1959, to September, 1959

Date 12/4/63

JOHN E. DONOVAN, 2009 Belmont Road, N.W., Washington, D.C., a physics instructor at Ascension Academy, Alexandria, Virginia, advised that as a U.S. Marine Corps Officer he was Section Commander of LEE HARVEY OSWALD during the period March to September, 1959. Both were attached to the Counter Air Operations Center (CAOC) with Marine Air Control Squadron 9 (MACS-9), U.S. Marine Corps (USMC), Santa Ana, California. OSWALD was a Private and DONOVAN was the Assistant Operations Officer. DONOVAN described OSWALD as a wise guy who went out of his way to annoy people; as revolting against any kind of authority and through this attitude expelling himself from society. OSWALD felt he was one of a minority who actually knew what was happening in world affairs, particularly in the field of politics. OSWALD was an officer-baiting troublemaker who used his superior knowledge of world political situations to trap unwary officers.

DONOVAN said OSWALD was dependable on watch during his performance of duties with the CAOC crew such as radar scanning operations. He believed OSWALD's position would be classified as Operations Man in an MACS unit. DONOVAN's association with OSWALD was generally on a daily basis and while both assigned to the CAOC, MACS-9, on the West Coast. DONOVAN mentioned that in slack periods, OSWALD rarely associated with other members of the crew, spent time reading history books, magazines and a Russian newspaper, name unknown. OSWALD also studied the Russian language. DONOVAN said that although OSWALD was an officer baiter, he was never directly insulting to same although they sensed that he held them in little esteem for the most part. DONOVAN never had nor did he know of any trouble in his association with OSWALD which required administrative action, such that it would be noted in his record. DONOVAN stated that some of the men actually liked and respected OSWALD because he was able to back up some of his officer-baiting accomplishments with studied knowledge of the facts in the political problem or historical question which he used to bait his trap.

On 12/3/63 at Alexandria, Virginia File # WFO 105-37111

by SA JAMES F. MORRISSEY:elw Date dictated 12/4/63

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DONOVAN believed OSWALD had a very high IQ, was a self-educated man and well read, especially in the fields of political world affairs. DONOVAN said that OSWALD thus presented the anomaly of a 20 year old Marine Corps Private with an extensive knowledge and maturing interest in world affairs and politics.

DONOVAN stated that a fellow officer, WILLIAM TRAIL, told him that TRAIL was Officer of the Day in Japan when OSWALD got into trouble there over his having been drunk and cursing out a Sergeant, and not an officer as reported in a December 2, 1963, article in the Washington, D.C., "Evening Star" newspaper reporting an interview of DONOVAN. TRAIL, knowing OSWALD was going into DONOVAN's outfit, warned the latter that OSWALD was a talker and out of his mind. In explanation of this last remark, DONOVAN said that TRAIL explained that OSWALD was a nut on politics, felt this was meant by TRAIL rather than any mental instability. DONOVAN also stated that he dated an airline stewardess, found out from her that she had also dated OSWALD on a few occasions. The stewardess told DONOVAN OSWALD was a real nut. DONOVAN conjectured that stewardess' remark might have been due to the fact that OSWALD, all wrapped up in political theory, may have expounded on same and to her was a poor and odd date.

DONOVAN also said that when OSWALD requested a hardship discharge in September of 1959 to assist his mother financially, OSWALD turned down the offer of other men in the group to help.

DONOVAN knew of no mental instability on the part of OSWALD.

DONOVAN related that OSWALD's position with the CAOC crew gave him access to all secret radio frequencies, call signs, and authentication codes utilized in connection with the normal functions of the CAOC. Since they were compromised, they were changed at the time of OSWALD's defection to Moscow. In connection also with the normal effective operational functioning of his position, OSWALD

also knew the displacement of most military squadrons of all services on the West Coast, the number and type aircraft of all services on the West Coast, the ranges and locations of radar control sites of all services on the West Coast, and knew the practical effective ranges as distinguished from theoretical or book ranges on all radar sets in the USMC. DONOVAN stated that OSWALD's position required a secret clearance, that access to the location in which they operated was gained by presentation of appropriate credentials to the guard on duty.

DONOVAN stated that OSWALD never actually presented his political views regarding this country or Russia. DONOVAN stated that he knew nothing about a statement in the Washington, D.C., newspaper "Evening Star" article previously referred to which reported him as knowing about a court martial for OSWALD on not reporting that OSWALD owned a pistol. He said he did not know where the reporter obtained this information for he knew nothing of any interest in guns on the part of OSWALD.

DONOVAN stated that the following persons would know OSWALD well:

1. ROBERT BLOCK, USMC, presently with MACS-9 at Santa Ana, California. BLOCK was Operations Officer during the period DONOVAN was Assistant Operations Officer of CAOC, MACS-9, and as such was OSWALD's over-all superior.

2. CAMELIUS (phonetic) BROWN, a Negro Staff Sergeant, USMC, believed to be stationed at the Helicopter Base, New River, North Carolina, with MACS-5, or can be located through Camp Lejeune. BROWN was OSWALD's crew chief part-time when both were with MACS-9.

3. EUGENE HOLMBERG (or HOLMBURG), Warrant Officer, USMC, presently an Airborne Radar Observer with the USMC F4H Squadron in the San Diego area. HOLMBERG was then Staff Sergeant and also a crew chief of OSWALD with MACS-9.

4. WILLIAM K. TRAIL, South Eberhardt Street, Chicago, Illinois, employed by North American Insurance Company, Chicago, as claims adjustor. TRAIL was a former officer in the USMC. DONOVAN believed TRAIL and OSWALD both together with MACS-1, Atsugi, Japan, probably from December, 1957, to January, 1959, and that TRAIL should know people who knew OSWALD in Japan.

5. OWEN DEJANOVICH (phonetic), formerly of the USMC in the same crew with OSWALD at MACS-9 and also lived in the same barracks area as OSWALD. DEJANOVICH was presently living in Chicago and DONOVAN believed that he could be readily reached from the Chicago phone book.

DONOVAN suggested DEJANOVICH be interviewed concerning a Marine whose name DONOVAN could only recall as BEEZER and whom he described as a short football player whom DEJANOVICH would readily recall. DONOVAN pointed out that BEEZER's sister, whose first name was ROSE, was an airline stewardess who dated OSWALD once or twice and who is previously described herein. DONOVAN believed that BEEZER introduced OSWALD to his sister, doubted that BEEZER would perform such an action if there was anything wrong with OSWALD in any respect.

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Interview of Mrs. SYLVIA HOKE,
5421 Waneta Road,
Glen Echo Heights, Maryland,
Sister of Mrs. RUTH PAINE

It will be recalled that LEE HARVEY OSWALD's wife, MARINA, was residing with a RUTH PAINE at time of the assassination of President JOHN F. KENNEDY.

On November 29, 1963, Mrs. EMMETT DIAMOND, Grand Prairie, Texas, advised she was acquainted with relatives of RUTH PAINE; that one of these relatives was a sister, SYLVIA HOKE, 5421 Waneta Road, Glen Echo Heights, Washington, D.C.